

Issue 15 — January 24, 2003

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Legislative update

Several bills would impact financial aid, special populations

The Legislature wraps up its second week today. Lawmakers have introduced several bills with financial aid implications. Some of the proposals put forward so far would:

- Authorize resident tuition for certain undocumented students.
- Allow the state to carry forward unspent financial aid funds at the end of a fiscal year and ensure the funds are preserved for financial aid purposes.
- Create a privately funded, state-administered grant program to help eligible students meet dependent care costs.
- Create an endowed scholarship for Hispanic American students.
- Allow branch campuses to offer lower-division courses.
- Make passage of WASL standards another way to meet academic eligibility requirements for the Promise Scholarship.
- Require school districts to pay the costs of postsecondary remedial education.

The Higher Education Coordinating Board is tracking these and a number of other bills related to financial aid and higher education. The list below includes all proposals we thought might be of interest to the financial aid community. If you would like information about all of the bills that the Board is tracking, contact Colleen Scovill at colleens@hecb.wa.gov or (360) 753-7850.



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Senate bills of interest

| Bill Number | Description | Sponsor(s) |
|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| SB 5004 | Creates an endowed scholarship for Hispanic American students | Jacobsen |
| SB 5010 | Authorizes branch campuses to offer lower-division coursework | Jacobsen |
| SB 5135 | Requires students with an excess of 120 percent of the credits required for a degree or certificate to pay higher tuition equivalent to the full cost of instruction | Carlson, Kohl-Welles |
| SB 5136 | Expands membership of the Higher Education Coordinating Board to include the Superintendent of Public Instruction | Carlson, Schmidt |
| SB 5137 | Specifies that students who meet 10 th -grade reading and math standards on the Washington Assessment of Student Learning [WASL] shall be deemed to have met the state's general undergraduate admission requirements | Carlson |
| SB 5138 | Establishes meeting 10 th -grade reading and math standards on the Washington Assessment of Student Learning [WASL] as another avenue for students to qualify academically for the Promise Scholarship | Carlson |
| SB 5139 | Requires school districts to bear the cost of instruction for remedial postsecondary education course work, including student tuition | Carlson |
| SB 5158 | Authorizes resident tuition for certain undocumented students residing in Washington | Carlson, McAuliffe |
| SB 5241 | Requires that the state budget provide funding for actual enrollments at public institutions; includes provisions for additional financial aid funding based on increases in enrollments and the costs of attendance | Kohl-Welles, Carlson |
| SB 5249 | Establishes the Higher Education for Lifelong Progress (HELP) program, which would provide grants to assist college-eligible Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF) recipients for up to two years of postsecondary education; allows participation in the HELP program to count toward TANF work requirements | Kohl-Welles, Shin |
| SB 5357 | Authorizes tuition waivers on a space-available basis for children of faculty at institutions of higher education | West, Sheahan |
| SB 5405 | Permits a limited number of students to use their State Need Grant awards out of state at select historically black colleges | Jacobsen |

House bills of interest

| Bill Number | Description | Sponsor(s) |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| HB 1079 | Authorizes resident tuition for certain undocumented students residing in Washington | Kenney, Cox |
| HB 1123 | Ensures that unspent financial aid funds at the end of a fiscal year are preserved for financial aid purposes through the creation of a dedicated account | Kenny, Cox |
| HB 1277 | Creates a supplemental educational assistance grant program for State Need Grant eligible students with dependents; private sources would fund the program entirely | Kenney, Cox |

Hearings on financial aid and select higher education issues — Jan. 27 - 31

Monday, Jan. 27, 2003

Senate Higher Education Committee, 1:30 p.m., Senate Hearing Room 3

Public Hearing:

- SB 5134
- SB 5135
- SB 5004
- SB 5158

Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2003

House Higher Education Committee, 1:30 p.m., House Hearing Room D

Work Session/Public Hearing:

- Education and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF): overview of funding and program requirements; participant follow-up and outcomes; public testimony

Thursday, Jan. 30, 2003

Joint meeting of Senate Higher Education Committee and Senate Education Committee, 10a.m., Senate Hearing Room 1

Work Session:

- The effects of the implementation of education reform on K-12 and higher education: A discussion of the connections and disconnections; may include a discussion about using 10th-grade reading and math standards on the WASL as another way to meet the academic requirements of the Promise Scholarship

Online resources for tracking and analyzing legislation

Full text of bills and supporting materials: <http://www.leg.wa.gov/wsladm/bills.cfm>

Complete legislative hearing schedule: <http://www.leg.wa.gov/wsladm/calendar.cfm>

Live and archived Web broadcast of all hearings: <http://www.tvw.org>

SNB interim report due Feb. 7

The Board asks participating institutions to submit the next State Need Grant (SNB) interim report on or before Feb. 7. These reports enable program staff throughout the year to determine what portion of eligible students is being served, monitor program funds, and ensure the fullest possible utilization. Reports include information about income, family size, dependent care allowances, and number in college for both served and unserved students. If you have questions about the interim report, contact Chris Leeper at chrisl@hecb.wa.gov or (360) 753-7840.